

---

**Agenda**  
**United States – European Union**  
**Roundtable on Evaluation Strategies and Methodologies**  
**June 4, 2012**  
**U.S Department of Labor**  
**Francis Perkins Building, Washington, DC**  
**Room C-5310, 1B**

---

**8:30–8:35am**

**Welcome**

- **Seth Harris**, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor

**8:35-9:00am**

**Opening Remarks**

The opening remarks will explore the relationship between policy-making and evaluation, including a discussion of how research priorities are established.

***Speakers:***

- **Jane Oates**, Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor
- **Mark Greenberg**, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Administration of Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- **Georg Fischer**, Director for Analysis, Evaluation, and External Relations, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

**9:00–10:45am**

**Session 1 – Evaluation Methods: Making the Right Choice**

This session will examine the various evaluation methodologies available to analyze employment and training programs. Addressing the challenges and limitations of each method will be discussed through illustrative examples.

***Moderator:***

- **Demetra Nightingale**, Chief Evaluation Officer, U.S. Department of Labor

***Speakers:***

- **Burt Barnow**, Professor, George Washington University, United States
- **Bernhard Boockmann**, Professor and Managing Director, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IAW), Germany

***Discussants:***

- **Melissa Bomberger**, Labor Branch Chief, U.S. Office of Management and Budget
- **Ricardo Hernandez**, Lead Research Analyst, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education
- **Michael Rosholm**, Professor and Research Director, Department of Economics and Business, and CAFE, Denmark
- **Karolina Jakubowska**, Policy & Action Group Uniconsult, Poland

**10:45–11:00am      Break**

**11:00–12:30pm      Session 2 – Random Assignment: As Good As Gold?**

When feasible, random assignment is the most rigorous method of evaluation. A discussion of practical examples will highlight the elements necessary to utilize this design and how challenges are met.

***Moderator:***

- **Naomi Goldstein**, Director, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration of Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

***Speaker:***

- **Larry Orr**, Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University
- **Michael Rosholm**, Professor and Research Director, Department of Economics and Business, and CAFE, Denmark

***Discussants:***

- **Rebecca Maynard**, Commissioner, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, U.S. Department of Education
- **Jon Baron**, President, Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy
- **Bernhard Boockmann**, Professor and Managing Director, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IAW), Germany
- **Dovile Zvalionyte**, Research Manager, Public Policy and Management Institute, Lithuania

**12:30–2:00pm      Lunch on your own**

**2:00–3:00pm      Session 3 – Evaluation Readiness Logistics**

Evaluation readiness is integral to the successful execution of an evaluation, particularly for new and innovative initiatives. This session will discuss the operational logistics to prepare for a well-constructed evaluation, such as site recruitment, data collection, and technical assistance.

***Moderator:***

- **Cindy Guy**, Associate Director for Policy Research, Annie E. Casey Foundation

***Speakers:***

- **James Riccio**, Director, Low-Wage Workers and Communities Policy Area, MDRC
- **Stephen Morris**, Head of Evaluation Research, NatCen Social Research, United Kingdom

***Discussants:***

- **Lester Coffey**, President, Coffey Consulting
- **Maureen Conway**, Executive Director of the Economic Opportunities Program, Aspen Institute
- **Bruce Byrne**, Head of European Social Fund Evaluation, Social Justice Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, United Kingdom
- **Benedict Wauters**, Deputy Director of Strategy and Organizational Development, European Social Fund Agency Flanders, Belgium

**3:00–3:45pm**

**Learning Exchange – European Commission Impact Assessments: Assessing Programs Prior to Legislation**

The “Impact Assessment” is a key tool of the European Commission to ensure that legislation are prepared using transparent, comprehensive, and balanced evidence. A discussion will focus on the benefits and limitations of this method of impact assessment, as well as how this type of assessment might be useful in the United States.

***Moderator:***

- **Adriana Kugler**, Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Labor

***Speaker:***

- **Georg Fischer**, Director for Analysis, Evaluation, and External Relations, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

***Discussant:***

- **Robert I. Lerman**, Institute Fellow, Urban Institute; Professor, American University

**3:45–4:00 pm**

**Break**

**4:00–5:15pm**

**Session 4 – Spreading the Word: Research Dissemination and Application of Research**

The final session will address how various studies and results are disseminated and shared in the United States and in European Union member countries. It will also address how evaluation and research results inform policymaking and are incorporated into program improvement efforts. The following questions will be addressed:

***Moderator:***

- **Antonella Schulte-Braucks**, Head of Unit for Evaluation and Impact Assessment, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

***Speakers:***

- **Kathy Stack**, U.S. Office of Management and Budget
- **Karolina Jakubowska**, Policy & Action Group Uniconsult, Poland

***Discussants:***

- **Wayne Gordon**, Director of Research and Evaluation, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

- **Martha Moorehouse**, Director of Children and Youth Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- **Claude Rack**, Head of Evaluation Division, European Social Fund, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Social Dialogue, France
- **Paolo Severati**, ISFOL, Ministry of Labour, Italy

**5:15–5:30pm**

#### **Closing Remarks & Next Steps**

The closing remarks will help us to reflect on what we have learned during this exchange and foreshadow topic for future US-EU webinars on evaluation.

#### ***Speakers:***

- **Gerard (Gerri) Fiala**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor
- **Georg Fischer**, Director for Analysis, Evaluation, and External Relations, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission